UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.5/1995/L.4
7 April 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Thirty-fourth session
New York, 10-20 April 1995
Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda*

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS AND OTHER MATTERS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Proposed programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development for the biennium 1996-1997

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

In regulation 3.1 and rules 103.2, 103.3 and 103.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation of the United Nations, the intergovernmental body concerned with specific programmes is requested to provide comments on the proposed work programme for the next biennium. The note contains initial proposals being considered by the Secretary-General for incorporation in the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 in the field of social development. The Commission is requested to make any comments that it feels might need to be taken into account by the Secretary-General in preparing the proposed programme budget.

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1. The Commission for Social Development may wish to review the proposed programme of work in the field of social development with respect to the global social issues and policies programme and the social integration programme and provide its comments to the Secretary-General. It should be borne in mind that, in accordance with the terms of regulation 3.1 and rules 103.2, 103.3 and 103.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME/Rules/1 (1987)), while the suggestions or recommendations on the substance of the work programme by the intergovernmental body concerned may be taken into account in the course of the preparation and review of the programme budget, the Secretary-General cannot commit himself to the adoption of such suggestions or recommendations before the completion of the proposed programme budget.

2. The proposed programme of work contained in the annex is submitted in accordance with the relevant regulations and rules governing programme planning. It is based on the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, contained in documents A/49/6 (Prog. 25) and A/49/6 (Prog. 26), which were reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fourth session (A/49/16 (Part II)) and which the Committee, with some modifications, recommended to the General Assembly for approval. The revisions were prepared in the context of preparations for the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6-12 March 1995. The revisions reflect new programme mandates of the General Assembly with respect to poverty eradication and to accord new emphasis to social integration, social institutions and development.

3. In the light of the foregoing, the Commission may wish to comment on the proposed programme of work and proposed priorities of the Division for Social Policy and Development for the biennium 1996-1997.

Annex

PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE DIVISION FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Programme 25. Global social issues and policies

Subprogramme 1. Analysis of emerging social issues

Current situation and orientation of the subprogramme for the biennium

The subprogramme was reoriented to focus on the implications for social policy of global trends and emerging issues, in line with the restructuring of the Secretariat in the economic and social fields. Activities relate global trends and emerging issues to the practical concerns of those responsible for making, implementing and evaluating social policy, at all levels, with special emphasis on the needs of intergovernmental bodies.

Activities

1. International cooperation

External relations: liaison with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the social policy implications of global trends and emerging issues.

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation: one report to the Commission for Social Development (thirty-fifth session) on the social policy implications of global trends and emerging issues in subject areas considered by the World Summit for Social Development and of concern to the Commission;

(b) Substantive services to the Commission for Social Development (1997).

6. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Liaison with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system.

Subprogramme 2. Social policy design, planning and coordination

Current situation and orientation of the subprogramme for the biennium

Activities during the biennium 1994-1995 concentrated on preparing substantive inputs to the programme of action in the three core areas of the World Summit for Social Development, including policy recommendations, and analysis of social policies in the context of the implementation of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near

Future, and in respect of cooperatives. Under this subprogramme activities focus on promoting the social perspective on development through effective integration of social objectives in policy-making and policy implementation at the local and national levels and in international programmes. (In line with the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, activities relating to cooperatives are shown under programme 26, subprogramme 4 (Social institutions and development).

Activities

1. International cooperation

External relations: liaison with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the areas of social policy design, planning, coordination and evaluation, social welfare administration and social work.

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation: one report to the Commission for Social Development (thirty-fifth session) on the organization and administration of social services and one report to the General Assembly (fifty-second session) on the integration of social objectives in policy-making and implementation;

(b) Substantive services to the Commission for Social Development (1997);

(d) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work: one ad hoc expert group on the integration of social objectives in policy-making and implementation; preparation of substantive inputs.

3. Published materials

Non-recurrent publication: one publication on the integration of social objectives in policy-making and implementation at the national and local levels.

6. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Liaison with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system.

Subprogramme 3. Families in the development process

Current situation and orientation of the subprogramme for the biennium

The activities of the subprogramme in the context of the preparation, observance and immediate follow-up of the International Year of the Family have resulted in increased awareness of family issues among Governments, policy makers and the public; stimulated efforts to respond to problems affecting and affected by the situation of families; and promoted the concept of families as a focus for an integrated approach to social and development issues. The orientation of the subprogramme for the biennium will be to promote and assist

substantively in the follow-up to the Year so that global efforts and national capacities to deal with family issues are further strengthened and supported.

Activities

1. International cooperation

External relations: liaison on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family with intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the private sector.

2. Parliamentary services

Parliamentary documentation: one report to the General Assembly (fifty-second session), through the Commission for Social Development (thirty-fifth session), on families and development issues, 1997.

3. Published materials

Non-recurrent publications: technical publication on building family-friendly societies (1997); report of the interregional meeting on national institutional arrangements regarding families and development (1997).

6. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Liaison and collaboration with organizations of the United Nations system on families and development; contributions to the inter-agency task force on families.

Subprogramme 4. Strategies for poverty eradication

Current situation and orientation of the subprogramme for the biennium

Activities focused on the elaboration of recommendations relating to poverty for inclusion in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and a programme of activities to observe the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. Activities related to follow-up of the Summit and the Year are regrouped under this new subprogramme, as envisaged in the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. Activities are intended to assist Governments to assess trends in poverty levels, to identify specific causes of poverty and to exchange experience in evaluating the effectiveness of policies at the national and international levels aimed at eradicating extreme poverty and reducing overall poverty. Support is provided for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996) and its follow-up.

Activities

1. International cooperation

External relations: liaison with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the context of observing and following up the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation: one report to the Commission for Social Development (thirty-fifth session) on the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit for Social Development and the achievements of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proposed follow-up; one report to the General Assembly (fifty-first session) on follow-up to the Summit and the Year;

(b) Substantive services to the Commission for Social Development (1997) and for the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, as required;

(d) Ad hoc expert groups and preparatory work: one ad hoc expert group in 1996 on poverty eradication strategies and use of quantitative targets in national and international strategies.

3. Published materials

Recurrent publications: four newsletters during the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (one per quarter) on subjects of topical interest.

5. Operational activities

Substantive support for advisory services for the evaluation of anti-poverty programmes.

6. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Liaison with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system in connection with the results and follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development and the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. Ad hoc inter-agency meetings in connection with the Summit, the Year and their follow-up.

Programme 26. Social integration

Subprogramme 1. Youth policies and programmes

Current situation and orientation of the subprogramme for the biennium

Activities in the biennium 1994-1995 focused on the preparation of a world youth programme of action for adoption by the General Assembly. Priority has been accorded to assisting Governments in developing national plans of action on youth, formulating an international instrument on youth and strengthening channels of communication between the United Nations system and youth and youth organizations. The present focus is on implementing the International Youth Year strategy within the framework of the world youth programme of action. Priority is accorded to activities related to assisting Governments in setting targets in eight priority areas of the world youth programme of action.

Activities

1. International cooperation

External relations: liaison with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on implementing the world youth programme of action.

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation: one report to the General Assembly (fifty-second session) on the review and appraisal of the implementation of International Youth Year objectives; one report to the Commission for Social Development (thirty-fifth session);

(c) Substantive services to the Commission for Social Development (1997);

(d) Ad hoc expert group and related preparatory work: one session of the youth forum in 1996.

3. Published material

Recurrent publications: eight issues of newsletter on youth.

5. Operational activities

Substantive support for youth projects and programmes from the resources of the United Nations Youth Fund to strengthen national capacities in relevant youth activities.

6. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Liaison with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system in the area of youth. Ad hoc inter-agency meetings in 1996 and 1997.

Subprogramme 2. Ageing policies and programmes

Current situation and orientation of the subprogramme for the biennium

Activities in 1994-1995 focused on assisting Governments in setting and implementing national targets within the framework of global targets adopted by the General Assembly. Activities in the biennium 1996-1997 concentrate on preparations for the International Year of Older Persons (1999) and the quadrennial review of the implementation of the provisions of the International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Activities

1. International cooperation

External relations: liaison with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular regarding preparations for the International Year of Older Persons (1999).

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation: one report to the General Assembly (fifty-second session) on the programme of activities for the International Year of Older Persons (1999) and one report to the Commission for Social Development (thirty-fifth session) on the fourth review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

(c) Substantive services to the Commission for Social Development (1997).

3. Published material

Recurrent publications: six issues of newsletter on ageing.

Non-recurrent publication: World Ageing Situation - 1997.

5. Operational activities

Substantive support for projects and programmes from the resources of the Trust Fund.

6. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Liaison with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system in the area of ageing. Ad hoc inter-agency meetings in 1996 and 1997 in connection with preparations for the International Year of Older Persons (1999).

Subprogramme 3. Disability policies and programmes

Current situation and orientation of the subprogramme for the biennium

During the biennium 1994-1995, work was completed on a long-term strategy to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, two manuals to assist Governments to plan and implement disability programmes, particularly in the context of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. Activities in the biennium focus on the monitoring of the implementation of the Rules, including support for the activities of the special rapporteur, the third review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action and support for an enhanced disability component in cooperation programmes, both bilateral and multilateral.

Activities

1. International cooperation

External relations: liaison with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the area of disability.

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation: one report to the General Assembly (fifty-second session) on progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the World Programme of Action (1997);

(c) Substantive services to the Commission for Social Development (1997).

3. Published material

(a) Recurrent publications: six issues of newsletter on disability;

(c) Technical material: further development of the Clearing-house on Disability-related Information (CLEAR).

5. Operational activities

Substantive support for projects and programmes from the Voluntary Fund.

6. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Liaison with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system in the area of disability. Ad hoc inter-agency meetings in 1996 and 1997.

Subprogramme 4. Social institutions and development

Current situation and orientation of the subprogramme for the biennium

Activities under this new subprogramme, included in the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, will focus on the monitoring and evaluation of issues and trends in institutional development and the assessment of their impact on social integration and development. Specific attention will be given to the issues of devolution and decentralization; forms of partnership between government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations; and communities and grass-roots and other participatory institutions. Attention will be given to strengthening and improving national capacities and institutional capabilities for social integration, including capacities of specialized non-governmental organizations.

Activities

1. International cooperation

External relations: liaison with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation: one report to the Commission for Social Development (thirty-fifth session) and to the General Assembly (fifty-second session) on the recommendations of the World Summit for Social Development concerning social integration and policy options for strengthening social institutions for enhanced social integration; one report to the General Assembly (fifty-first session) on cooperatives;

(c) Substantive services to the Commission for Social Development (1997);

(d) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work: one expert meeting on the contribution of cooperatives and farmers' organizations to achievement of the goals of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996).

3. Published material

Recurrent publications: Social Development Newsletter (2 issues per year);

Non-recurrent publications:

(a) Experience with the development and implementation of policies for strengthening institutions for social integration in the context of social diversity;

(b) Review of the role of cooperatives in the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.

6. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Liaison with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Department of Public Information, the regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system.

Participation in the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC), including its task force on the improvement of statistics on and for cooperatives.

Joint activities with the private sector and with non-governmental organizations in the promotion and support of social partnerships at the international, national and local levels.